

From Ichang I have also obtained specimens of an *Alcippe* of a very different type, closely allied to *A. brunnea*, for which I propose the name

*ALCIPPE OLIVACEA*, sp. nov.

General colour of crown and back olive-brown, verging to fulvous brown on the rump; the feathers of forehead and crown with darker edgings, which give a scaly appearance. Wings deep brown, edged with fulvous; tail fulvous brown, brighter on the outer edges. Ring round the eye, lores, and ear-coverts fulvous, rest of sides of face and neck pale greyish brown. A broad black streak bordering the crown on each side, and extending down the back of the neck, where the two almost meet. Chin, throat, and abdomen dull white, tinged with greyish brown. Sides of breast and flanks earthy, washed with olive-brown on thighs and under tail-coverts. Bill horny brown. Legs and feet (in skin) light horny brown, claws whitish.

Tarsus 0·9 in.; wing 2·5; tail 2·9.

This species is distinguished from *A. brunnea* by its olive upper parts, long tail, and brown, instead of black, bill. Also the sides of the face and neck are almost free from the scaly appearance shown in the other species.

XXIX.—*Descriptions of some new Eggs from the Bloomfield-River District, North Queensland.* By D. LE SOUËF, Melbourne.

1. *PODARGUS PAPUENSIS*, Quoy & Gaim.

The nest of the Papuan Podargus was found by Mr. R. Hislop on October 20th, 1894. It was composed of small sticks loosely put together, somewhat similar to that of a Pigeon; it was built on the horizontal branch of a small tree and contained one white egg, of an elongated oval shape, and measuring 5·44 × 3·42 centimetres. This bird is most difficult to detect, being so much in harmony with its surroundings. When on the nest or on a branch it holds its head on a level with the rest of its body, giving it the

exact appearance of a piece of dead wood; even the markings and colour of its broad beak are similar to those of its feathers. Not long ago I noticed the nest of a Cuvier's Podargus, and at first sight thought that some one had laid a short thick stick across it; but on nearer view it proved to be the bird itself sitting on its two eggs. These birds remain perfectly still when roosting during the daytime.

### 2. *ÆGOTHELES LEUCOGASTER*, Gould.

Mr. Hislop found the nest of the White-bellied Owlet Nightjar on November 23rd, 1895, and the three pure white eggs were laid on the decayed wood at the bottom of a hollow branch of a eucalyptus tree. They are very similar in appearance to those of *Æ. novæ-hollandiæ*, but are slightly more oval. They have the same hard, thick, lustrous shell, and when rubbed together produce a sound as if they were composed of hard china. They measure: A  $3.00 \times 2.28$ , B  $2.91 \times 2.3$ , C  $2.95 \times 2.28$  centimetres. The parent bird was shot as she flew from the nest.

### 3. *MYZOMELA OBSCURA*, Gould.

A nest of this little Honey-eater was found on October 23rd, 1893, during my visit to Mr. Hislop, and again on October 17th, 1895, by Mr. Hislop. The nest is cup-shaped, lightly built, composed of fine rootlets, and lined with a few long hairs, probably off cattle; a few cobwebs were mixed with the rootlets, and cobwebs were also used to help to fasten the nest on to the twigs on which it hung. The nest measures  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch; internal depth and inside diameter  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch. The first-mentioned was found near the top of what is locally called an "iron-wood" tree, about thirty feet from the ground and well shaded by leaves. The parent bird was secured as it flew off the nest. The ground-colour of the egg is white, lightly covered with reddish-brown spots, which are most numerous at the larger end and form a zone; a few of the markings appear as if beneath the surface of the shell, they being of a dark grey colour. The measurements are: A  $1.69 \times 1.28$ , B  $1.58 \times 1.23$  centimetre.

4. *GRAUCALUS SWAINSONI*, Gould.

The shallow nest of this handsome bird was found on December 12th, 1895, by Mr. Hislop, and contained two eggs. It was placed at the fork of a horizontal branch of an iron-wood tree, about 25 feet from the ground, and was composed of casuarina and other leaves, fastened together with cobwebs. A nest of the same bird was found during my visit to Mr. Hislop in 1893, but it contained two young ones. The eggs differ considerably in colour from those of the other species of *Graucalus*, being very much lighter; the ground-colour is very light green, almost white; it is well covered with various-sized brownish markings, very slightly more numerous at the larger end, many appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell, they being of a grey tint. The measurements are: A  $2.94 \times 2.2$ , B  $2.91 \times 2.17$  centimetres.

5. *PACHYCEPHALA FALCATA*, Gould.

Mr. Hislop found the nest and three eggs of this bird on November 11th, 1895, and secured the parents. The nest was placed in a thick bush about twelve feet from the ground, and was composed principally of rootlets, with a few twigs of creepers, with some cobwebs on the outside to help to hold the light structure together, the lining being a few finer rootlets. It measures: internal depth  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch, external  $1\frac{3}{4}$ ; internal diameter 2 inches, external  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The eggs are very similar in appearance to those of the Rufous-breasted Thickhead, but smaller; they are of an olive colour, with a zone of umber markings, the spots being more numerous on some eggs than on others and also more scattered. The zone is almost round the centre of the egg; very few markings appear on other portions. They measure: A  $2.1 \times 1.65$ , B  $2.09 \times 1.64$ , C  $2.11 \times 1.65$  centimetres.

6. *SITTELLA STRIATA*, Gould.

The beautiful nest and three eggs of *Sittella striata* were found on August 30th, 1895, by Mr. Hislop. The nest was built between the upright forks of a branch of a eucalyptus tree, and, as is usual with nests of these birds, was exceedingly difficult to detect. It is composed almost entirely of elongated

pieces of bark and cobwebs, lined with the same material ; it is a deep cup-shaped structure, and the outside covered with these pieces of bark makes it look like part of the bough on which it is built. It has an internal depth of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch, external 3 inches; internal diameter  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch, external 2 inches. The eggs have the ground-colour white and lightly marked towards the smaller end with large dark slate-coloured markings varying in intensity ; at the larger end they are confluent, but do not form a zone. They measure : A  $1.77 \times 1.35$ , B  $1.8 \times 1.35$ , C  $1.75 \times 1.32$  centimetre.

XXX.—*Field-Notes on the Birds of the Estancia Sta. Elena, Argentine Republic.*—Part III.\* By A. H. HOLLAND. *With Remarks by P. L. SCLATER.*

[MR. HOLLAND, who in the intervals of work continues to collect and observe the birds met with on his estancia in the Argentine Republic, again sends me a small collection to look over. The notes were written in September 1895, but the specimens, obtained during the previous breeding-season, have only lately reached me. They are referable to the following 11 species. I give Mr. Holland's field-notes.—P. L. S.]

1. PROGNE FURCATA (Arg. Orn. i. p. 24).

[A fine adult male of this species. I am still doubtful about its real distinctness from *P. purpurea*.—P. L. S.]

2. CALLISTE PRETIOSA, Cab. (Sci. Cat. B. x. p. 114).

This is the only specimen I have seen of this species.

[This is a young female of *Calliste pretiosa*, of Paraguay and Southern Brazil, and is new to the Argentine avifauna. It is probably only a straggler at Sta. Elena.—P. L. S.]

3. AGELÆUS FLAVUS (Arg. Orn. i. p. 98).

Common, and resident here in small flocks all the year breeding in the spring in the tall "paja" grass.

\* See Part I., 'The Ibis,' 1893, p. 483, and Part II., 'The Ibis,' 1895, p. 213.